



## MEETING MINUTES / 18 DECEMBER 2018

### ATTENDANCE:

Present: Showell, Stewart, Armbruster (call-in), Baldwin, Bradley, Farley, Johnson (call-in) Lardizzone, Lopez, Magner, McMullen, Seppala (call-in) **80%**

Excused: Newman, Newstadt, Sarg

Unexcused:

Guests: Vince Kane (Wilmington VAMC) (call-in), Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Jessica Finan (Home of the Brave), Kathy Craig (Wilmington VAMC), Virginia Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Pat Cerchio (First State Women Warriors), Kim McMullen, Devon Reed (U.S. Census Bureau), Alexa Ciero (U.S. Census Bureau)

### CHAIRWOMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for service members abroad and Gold Star Families

Acknowledged Commissioners Farley and Armbruster (following recovery from medical procedures)

### MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzone and McMullen

### ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

#### **Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director (telephone)**

Welcomed Kathy Craig as new nurse executive

- Role will focus on clinical improvements

Leadership team is close to full

- Recruiting for Director, Quality Management

Seeking upgrade of Specialty Care Clinics

- Needs increased provider and nursing staff

- - Neurology, Cardiology, Urology

- At Wilmington and both clinics

Pursuing return of Palliative Care and Hospice Services

- To address lack of care in the area

- Seeking providers, nurse practitioner, psychologist

- Designating beds

Growing programs within the community

Received VISN 4 funding

- Site for all virtual care in VISN 4

- - When providers call out from the clinics, can provide virtual interaction

- Would like to provide a demonstration

- Great method of care delivery throughout network

- Recruiting providers (two physicians, six physician assistants) to be onsite

- Implementation 6 – 9 months out

- Off-hours can be used to support urgent care

Garage will be awarded in January, breaking ground in the spring, 9 – 12 month project

- Provides additional 200 parking spaces

- Parking challenges during construction phase, employees will be shuttled from other location

Solicitation for Dover clinic expansion project, have met with developers

- Input sessions feature developer and community exchange of ideas
- Approximate 30 day process
- Award in spring
- 27K square feet, will be more space

Final design phase for building 13 or regional benefits office

- Construction, total remodeling, in spring
- Veteran service officers will be relocated

(Showell) How much time is needed for virtual care demonstration?

10 – 15 minutes

(Showell) Did you fill the Sussex Outreach position?

Yes, member begins in January

(Stewart) Why was hospice care discontinued?

It was due to funding, but that won't be an issue in the future

(McMullen) Have you hired for the ENT position?

Had a candidate, but they withdrew

Working with Philadelphia medical center to provide coverage for position

### **Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:**

70 residents

Provided photos and explanation of dining room renovation/construction project

- Some delays due to rain and soil issues
- Projected September completion

Blue bathing suite should be done in April

Averaging 10 -15 admission calls and 4 -5 site visits

Have an opportunity to obtain one of eleven Remembrance Bells

- Secretary of State has approved obtaining
- Seeking commissioner's approval
- Will be located within flag area by entrance
- Lardizzone make motion to approve, seconded by Bradley
- Bell used upon death of resident and remembrance of those who passed in between veteran's holidays

Keep in mind some veterans do not have family who visit, so a visit or card would be appreciated

### **Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:**

15 males

4 females, 2 children

Received grant from Longwood Foundation, to be used to purchase an RV

- Requested recommendations for potential local car dealerships
  - Will be used to locate "hard to reach" homeless veterans (e.g. encampments, parking lots)
- "Lunch with a Purpose" fundraiser made \$4.1K

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Christine Bradley, AmVets Post 2 Auxiliary

Auxiliary donated \$600.00 to trust fund

Dave Skocik, Delaware Veterans Coalition

Spoke to Wilmington VAMC team about publicizing outreach events

Friends of Delaware Veterans benefit from agencies/organizations that make recurring donations

Trust fund dinner was very successful

Devon Reed, U.S. Census Advisory  
Doing outreach throughout Delaware to educate citizens on census 2020

Patricia Cerchio, First State Women Warriors  
Attended Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services  
- Child Development Center (CDC) briefing highlighted worldwide military child care programs  
- - Highlighted how Delaware National Guard provides child care during drill weekends  
- - - Potential recruiting incentive

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:**  
Interments – 63

**Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:**  
Interments – 33  
Highlighted Wreaths Across America event on 15 December, well attended

**Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:**

**Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:**  
Thanked Commissioner Sarg for compiling legislative recommendations  
Will seek sponsorship for individual recommendations

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 11; Granted 9 (81.8%); Awarded \$6,631.57; Balance - \$68,191.00  
Balance applies to state balance and not the Friends of Delaware Veterans balance  
Will seek specific state representative or senator sponsorship for legislative recommendations  
New Hire, New Castle Veterans Service Officer, Lisa Smith starts Monday, 25 November

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

Chapter Update:

- No December meeting and officer elections will be held during January meeting
- Joined with several local churches in a sox's drive for the homeless
- Fund raiser 5K walk run is scheduled March or April starting and finishing at the AMC Museum

Division 1 Update:

- Professional Airman Conference and Convention, 21 – 23 March, Burlington, MA
  - - Guests CMSAF #11 Murray, International President Carton, Executive Director Reed, Lobbyist Lokovic and Cory Etchenberger son of Medal of Honor winner CMSgt Etchenberger

1 Dec: Attended DAV Departmental Holiday Party

11 Dec: Participated in Executive Council meeting

Commissioner Armbruster (American Legion - AL)  
Nothing to report

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

22 Nov: Post 2 hosted a member/guest Thanksgiving, great turnout.

15 Dec: Sons of AmVets hosted children's Christmas party with snacks, gifts, and Santa Claus

16 Dec: Post 2 hosted annual Christmas party, with Pollyanna, luncheon, and music

7 - 8 Dec: Attended N E C meeting in Maryland.

AmVets National Commander Riley's project for 2019 is to raise money to fix the dock at the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

26 Nov – 17 Dec: Department Service Officers served 53 veterans in applying for Veterans Benefits

26 Nov: Attended funeral for Thomas G. Lewis III. Special Staff Assistant for Veterans for Senator Joe Biden Jr. for 30 years

27 Nov: Attended bingo at Wilmington VAMC Nursing Home

27 Nov: Attended Friends of the Veterans Home meeting

7 Dec: Attended Pearl Harbor Memorial Dedication at Lake Como, Smyrna

10 Dec: Attended the Wreaths Across America at Legislative Hall

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

Toys for Tots drive ends today, distributing this weekend

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

26 Nov: DE Veterans Home Admissions Meeting;

26 Nov: Delivered a Subaru Wagon Cargo Area filled with food donated by MOAA to the DE Food Bank in Milford plus \$125 in donations for the "Feed the Hungry Program" in Delaware;

27 Nov: Friends of the DE Veterans Home Planning Meeting;

3 Dec: Brain Injury Council Meeting;

9 Dec: MOAA Christmas Party that donated more than 2 full boxes of unwrapped toys to the Delaware Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots Program

10 Dec: Wreaths Across Delaware Ceremony at Leg Hall;

11 Dec: Employment First Oversight Commission Meeting;

13 Dec: State Dental Van Tour of "Surplus State Property" for possible use at the DE Veterans Home;

16 Dec: Delivered 2 large bags of unwrapped toys from DE MOAA to Sen. Carper's Toys for Tots collection

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

Nothing to report due to chapters being off for the holidays

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)

Representative Mike Ramone, Wilmington) has expressed interest in sponsoring Veteran legislation

7 Dec: Pearl Harbor Memorial in Smyrna, sponsored by Viet Nam Vets Motorcycle Club was exceptional

20 Dec: Meeting with venture capitalists to discuss formal establishment of endowment for Vets Trust Fund and their ongoing participation.

Given approval to expand Wilmington University with a job placement program for veterans

- Will be housed at new Concord campus

- Will hire an administrator for the program, reports to Jim Webb Veteran Student Representative

Southern New Jersey reached out for information to start a military academy in Millville, similar to Delaware Military Academy

Meeting with Wilmington Mayor to formulate plans for an arts/military school similar to Callaway/Charter School of Wilmington

- To be named Clifford Brown school

Continuing pursuit of Vet Job Placement through transition recruitment, need to work with Legislative Committee

Working on education initiative for need to recruit veterans

Christmas Eve caroling with VVA at monument on Washington Street in Wilmington at 1900

Meeting with Labor Secretary / Vet assistance for employment and recruitment

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

National Guard's World War I paintings are being displayed at Public Archives

Continue to publicize trust fund, because you never know who will listen and provide additional contributions

- Additional Georgetown agency will donate

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

7 Dec: Attended the 287th Army Band Holiday Concert in Wilmington.

8 Dec: Worked as Docent at the Delaware Military Museum

- Monthly public lecture topic: "Revolutionary Delaware" presented by Historian Kim Burdick.

15 Dec: Participated in "Wreaths Across America" ceremony at Pencader Museum, Newark at the Cooch's Bridge Revolutionary War battlefield.

MOWW Wilmington Chapter held their annual Holiday Party at the Ed Oliver Golf Club in Wilmington

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

5 Dec: 2018 - Attended the Convoy of Hope staff meeting as a lead for the Veteran Organization tables

- Convoy of Hope, hosted by Calvary church, in July 2019

- Plans are for a huge resource event at legislative field for the homeless and those in need

5 Dec: Conducted DelVets Post 2 Executive and General Membership meetings

7 Dec: Attended Pearl Harbor Monument Dedication

9 Dec: Attended the DelVets Benevolent event

- Fundraising efforts to assist Veteran families in need

- Five families received food gift certificates, Christmas meals, childrens' gifts and coats/gloves

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)

Student Veterans Task Force Meeting featured an Indtai presentation

- Presentation of system works with Virginia universities
- System documents transfer credits and military training, and connects it to user university courses and degree plans
- Upload personal information and information is instantly displayed
- Seeking to implement with Delaware's universities
- Costs for three schools - \$100K, \$25K for annual maintenance, seeking legislative or grant support

### **TERM COMPLETION:**

### **EVENTS:**

18 Dec / 1230: DCVA Holiday Party, DelVets Post 2, Dover

17 Jan / 0830: Delaware Joining Forces, Adams State Service Center, Georgetown

23 Jan / 1100: DCVA Table Display, Legislative Hall

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

By Laws Review Committee Information (OPEN)

Commissioner Stewart led voting, during special session, of track changes and wording updates

Legislative Proposal Process (OPEN)

Commission Sarg emailed recommendations to members and sponsorships will be used to introduce individual recommendations

- The commission will still present all recommendations to the military affairs committee

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

### **SPECIAL SESSION:**

Closed the phone communications during the session

Commissioner Stewart led review and vote of by-laws track changes and wording updates

- Nine commissioners were present for a quorum
- All changes take place 1 January
- Approved items can be reviewed on updated by-laws document
- By-laws recommendations (new items) will be voted on following the January meeting

### **NEXT MEETING:**

### **LOCATION:**

**Tuesday, 15 January 2019 at 10:00 AM**

**Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs**